

29 January 1976

Executive Registry

76-525

NOTE FOR MR. BUSH

SUBJECT: Role of the DCI

I well remember promising you during one of our sessions earlier this month that your Intelligence Community Staff would take a hard look at the Presidential Directives of 1971 and 1974 and let you know how we would propose redoing those directives to accord with the world around us now.

That promise is not forgotten. We have taken a long, hard look at this, and for a number of reasons, have concluded that a move in this direction at this instant does not appear worthwhile.

In the first place, the President's package of executive orders, legislative proposals, et al, is soon to be released. You know more about the package than we do. But, the soundings we have taken around town give us good reason to believe that what will be said about your role and the Community structure will be conducive to a good and prosperous future under your direction.

Furthermore, when all is said and done, we have only a few specific points we would revise in a new Presidential directive. One would be to divest the DCI of the responsibility to scrub resources invested in tactical military intelligence. Another would be to eliminate explicit requirement for IRAC, leaving it to you to decide how to arrange Community machinery to deal with resources. Still another point would be to spell out language making more practical your responsibility to submit a "consolidated budget".

Other changes we might make in a new directive would all be aimed at adding to your clout, but we found in trying to draft such language that it turned out to be more puffery than good, concrete formulation. The '71 and '74 directives already endow the DCI with a good deal of latent authority. Using it is a question of DCI style.

Accordingly, we do not now recommend any specifics for issuance of a new directive. The subject is academic until we know more about the package soon to be issued.

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(EXEMPTED UNDER E.O. 14176)

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AD/DCI/IC

MOR/CDE

NOTE FOR MR. BUSH, 1/29/76

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EHKnoche:r [redacted] (1/29/76)